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<u>Ludlow Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Firearms Charge</u>

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Raymond Withee**, age 38, of Ludlow, pleaded guilty on May 22, 2007, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, to lying on a federal firearms application.

Court records reveal that in May 2006, Withee lied on a federal firearms application when attempting to purchase a firearm from the Wal-Mart in Houlton, Maine, when he indicated he was not subject to a court order restraining him from harassing, stalking or threatening an intimate partner. Withee also lied when he indicated he had never been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

From November 2004 through November 2006, Withee was subject to an Order for Protection from Abuse from the District Court in Skowhegan; also, in 1999 Withee was convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence against his then wife in Maine District Court in Skowhegan. Individuals subject to Protection from Abuse Orders and those who have been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence are prohibited from possessing firearms.

Withee faces a possible sentence of 10 years imprisonment and up to a \$250,000 fine.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.